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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID PROCESSING METHODS, KITS AND DEVICES

(57) Abstract: Biological samples containing nucleic acids, RNA and DNA, are freed from bound proteins by incubation with a chaotropic agent such as a guanidium salt, and the mixture is readied for further processing by dilution of such agent to a concentration below 0.05 M without physical isolation of RNA and DNA from one another or from other components of the reaction mixture. Methods include such preparation and further processing, such as amplification and detection, which may be performed in a single container. Chaotropic agent may be supplied as a dried reagent adhered to a container. Kits may include such reagents, alone or with amplification reagents.

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